

THE BAPTIST Record

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Syrians in need of Good News

Believers pray lack of hope leads many to faith in Christ

DAMASCUS, Syria (BP) — Syrians were complacent for a long time. At least, that's how one person familiar with the war-torn Mideast country described its people.

They were "a people who felt they were more blessed than others, because natural disasters and wars had not been a part of their modern history," as Dan David (not his real name) put it.

A war has broken out in the past year against the totalitarian regime of President Bashar al-Assad. Bloodshed has escalated and people have run for the country's borders with their children in tow. The peace they enjoyed has been shattered.

There's a big question mark over the extent to which Good News is being shared amid the tumult inside Syria. Seven percent of the population is "Christian," a title that's more indicative of a passed-down identity than a personal relationship with Christ, David said.

It's a long heritage. Syria's capital, Damascus, is the place where Paul met up with followers of Christ for the first time as a fellow believer rather than a persecutor, according to Acts 9 in the New Testament.

"During the first century A.D., the news about Jesus went into all Syria [Matthew 4:24] but only centuries later this cradle of Christianity became the cradle of Islam," David said. Over the past several decades the Gospel has been shared with small pockets of the people, with rough starts and stops.

Believers are still there, however few, according to evangelical leaders familiar with the area. "Today, as far as we can tell, less than one percent of the population of Syria knows Jesus," said Natalie Shepherd (not her real name), a follower of Christ who lived and worked in the country. "Pray that millions of Syrian families who live inside and outside the country will begin to follow Jesus during this monumental upheaval in their homeland."



COMPETING FAITHS — Across the Damascus skyline, the neon blue on various Christian Orthodox churches competes with the neon green on Islamic mosques. As Syria struggles through a brutal and unrelenting civil war, concerns have been raised about the present state, as well as the future, of evangelical Christian work in the predominantly Muslim country. (BP photo)

The unrest has shaken Syrians to their core, Shepherd said. "Fear and apprehension about what will happen next is eroding most Syrian families' sense of well-being, leaving them with a huge deficit of hope."

Many Syrian families face desperate physical needs for warmth, food, and shelter, permeated by emotional trauma — the deaths of loved ones, gunfire night and day, and the bombing of their homes.

"Many families are filled with fear, wondering if and when the fighting will come to their neighborhood."

Recent news images show the city of Homs bombed out, people freezing in the snow, and others struggling to get the injured to medical care. On March 8, CNN footage showed injured people chained to beds in hospitals, with apparent marks of torture on their bodies.

The Syrian death toll from the past year teeters around 8,500, according to The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

"Now most of the people in Damascus and all over the country are living their daily lives in fear and uncertainty as the coun-



SEPARATE PRAYERS — A Muslim woman prays in a segregated section of the Damascus mosque built around the mausoleum of Shiite saint Sayyida Ruqayya. Muslim men and women are not allowed to pray or worship together. The people of war-torn Syria, predominantly Muslim, "need the Prince of Peace right now in such an urgent way," a Christian familiar with the country says. (BP photo)

try is being torn apart by fighting, arrests, torture and death," David said. "This is a time when good news is desperately needed. The people of Syria need the Prince of Peace right now in such an urgent way."

Believers in the region ask for Christians in the West to pray for Syria every time they see that nation in the news: that Syria's Christians would know God's peace, and that others will seek to know more about Christ.



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Humankind, meet your newest ancestor — a lemur-like creature about the size of a small housecat. Yes, we are told, scientists are convinced this 47-million-year-old fossil affectionately named *Ida* is indeed the much-sought "missing link" that neatly wraps up the evolutionary trail to man as we know him today.

Paleontologist Jorn Hurum of the Natural History Museum in Oslo, told National Geographic News that *Ida* bridges the evolutionary split between higher primates such as monkeys, apes, and humans, and their more distant relatives such as lemurs. "This is the first link to all humans," he said, "the closest thing we can get to a direct ancestor."

"This specimen looks like a really early fossil monkey that belongs to the group that includes us," Brian Richmond, a biological anthropologist at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., told National Geographic News.

"This little creature is going to show us our connection with the rest of all the mammals; with cows and sheep, and elephants and anteaters," said British naturalist Sir David Attenborough in an article in The Guardian newspaper of London. "The more you look at *Ida*, the more you can see, as it were, the primate in embryo."

On what are these scientists basing their conclusions? Well, *Ida* has a small bone near her heel (the talus) that resembles the bone of the same name in higher primates, and its toes have nails instead of claws. Her arms and legs are short like humans, and her face somewhat resembles a human face. Lastly, she has forward-looking eyes that would have given her the ability to judge distance.

Our cousin *Ida*

ward-looking eyes that would have given her the ability to judge distance.

That's it. Apparently, those are the main points that tie *Ida* to humans. Combined with the fact that *Ida* was unearthed more than 25 years ago and is just now coming to light, the sketchy comparison to humans is causing thoughtful people to ask questions.

"Given that the animal is described as 'something like a combination lemur monkey,' it is probably a mosaic or chimeric form (composed of characteristics from two or more groups combined into a well designed whole — in this case a combination of lemur and monkey characteristics)," wrote Kurt Wise, who holds a doctorate in paleontology from Harvard University, in a statement to Baptist Press.

"There are many such forms in the present (platypus, lesser panda, pronghorn, etc.) — none of which are evolutionary intermediate forms, but which are a testimony of a wise Creator God Who can combine characteristics in a wide variety of ways and create from them a marvelously designed organism," Wise wrote.

"Nothing about this fossil indicates that it was a human ancestor. Rather, it is a remarkably well-preserved, lemur-like creature looking nothing like an 'ape-man,'" Ken Ham, president of the apologetics ministry Answers in Genesis, told Baptist Press.

"Besides, why would a fossil found 25 years ago suddenly become a media sensation? Only because of a major PR push by the financial backers of a new book and television documentary about the fossil," Ham said. "Yet even the peer reviewers of the scientific paper on the fossil asked that the human origins hype be removed."

That's one of the reasons *Ida* has become such a hit after more than 25 years of obscurity. Hurum, the Oslo paleontologist who purchased *Ida* for his museum, has written a book and is involved with documentaries on *Ida*. "You need an icon or two in a museum to drag people in," Hurum told the Guardian. "This is our Mona Lisa and it will be our Mona Lisa for the next 100 years."

Philip Gingerich, a University of Michigan paleontologist who is a member of the *Ida* research team, when asked by the Wall Street Journal why the conclusions on *Ida* were not presented through the proper scientific channels, said, "There was a TV company involved and time pressure. We've been pushed to finish the study; it's not how I like to do science."

Sorry, guys. Nice try. *Ida* may have been a cute little primate, but she's nothing more than the artifice of a modern marketing machine.

Why can't we just stick to the idea that we are wonderfully made by a sovereign Creator, just as the Bible records? That sounds a lot better, and happens to be the truth.



Ida

On Friday, March 2, we heard the rumbling roar and felt the ground begin to shake long before we realized exactly what was happening. As the winds began to pick up, I watched the tornado cross over the Interstate highway and crest the top of the hill in front of us.

I found my wife Amy and held her as the building shook while the church's windows exploded above us. After the tornado passed, we crawled from the safety of the basement ark and stumbled into a town radically different from the one we had left just moments before.

Henryville in many ways didn't exist. I stood with families who saw their homes in ruins for the first time, and watched the dazed wanderings of townspeople walking streets that were unrecognizable. It was shock. It couldn't be processed. So much was gone. Last year I had seen the images of Tuscaloosa and Joplin on the nightly news. Now I was walking around in that nightmare.

Storms like this grab your attention and refuse to let it go. The world is seen more clearly. Life becomes fragile again. The routine is mocked. Entitlement is erased. Who we are, and what we have made ourselves believe we are, is stripped bare by the relentless wind.

GUEST OPINION:



Understanding the storms of life

By Cade Campbell
Henryville, Indiana

Throughout the Bible, storms are used to snap individuals from their trance. We see this as Jonah is thrown into the raging waves. We hear it in the frantic cries of the disciples as they are tossed like leaves in the tempest of Galilee.

Job's story in particular has repeatedly been on my mind during these last few days. Job demanded God's presence. He demanded to hear God's voice. God gave him a raging, speaking, whirlwind of glory (Job 38:1). In the path of that storm Job was forced to confess, "I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you, therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5-6).

When God appeared in the whirlwind, Job was broken by the vision of God's grandeur and the truth of his own

insignificance. Walking amid the streets of Henryville, I had to confess that God is really big and my world is very tiny and frighteningly fragile. Yet in the midst of that overwhelming, sinking feeling, the brilliance of the Gospel shone bright.

When God appeared to Job, he was not destroying Job. He was giving Job far more good than he could have ever dreamed or imagined. The tornado humbled us, but it also forced us to look beyond the pathetic excuses of our own self-worth and self-strength to something that is far more powerful than our own efforts and far more powerful than a raging wind.

In the helpless moments of disaster, we are left with the only place we can go — the arms of a strong and mighty God who knows, who reigns,

and who loves. Ultimately I believe that God gave the tornado to my town, and then let it be broadcast to the world for the beauty of the Gospel being proclaimed to a town and a people who desperately need it.

There was another Spring day that grew dark. There was another Friday afternoon when the sky grew black and the ground shook with a mighty rumbling. There was another storm, and not a storm of dust and debris but a storm of God's gracious judgment as He destroyed his own Son Jesus Christ in death.

In the wake of our own tragedies and in the path of ruins left from our own Friday afternoon, that is the only place to go. The cross is the only secure shelter. The cross is the only endless hope. When everything else is gone, the Gospel is shown to be everything.

I had heard of that with the hearing of the ear. Now my eye has seen it.

Campbell, a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton, is associate pastor of First Church in Henryville, Ind., and attends Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. His father Kent is pastor of Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg.

Workers call for prayer after killings

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A shooting rampage by a lone U.S. soldier that killed 16 Afghan civilians near Kandahar over the weekend is prompting Southern Baptist workers in Central Asia to ask American Christians to pray for peace.

The shootings threaten to further inflame a roiling tide of anti-American sentiment that swept the country in February following Afghans' outrage over the burning of Muslim holy books, including Qurans, at Bagram Air Base, as well as the posting of a video to the Internet in January allegedly showing four Marines urinating on the corpses of Taliban fighters.

The Quran-burning incident alone was followed by a week of protests in which 30 Afghans were killed. Attacks that resulted in the deaths of six American military personnel also were tied to the burning.

Some Afghans "understand and are slow to judge, but they... are certainly not the loud voices," says Leo Hughes (not his real name), a Southern Baptist human needs worker in Central Asia who has spent time in Afghanistan.

The vehemence with which Afghans sometimes respond to such incidents may be difficult for Westerners to understand, Hughes says, but the violence is a byproduct at least in part of 30 years of war that has ravaged the country beginning with the 1979 Soviet invasion.

"I have not encountered anyone in this country who has ever known Afghanistan at peace," Hughes says. "There are a few very old men who, when you hear them talk, it's almost like they are hallucinating when they speak about a time of peace."

In addition to America's ongoing conflict with the Taliban, there is continuous fighting among more than 20 ethnic groups that make up Afghanistan's population of 30 million. Hughes says the need to pray for peace for the country's tribes is equally as important.

"Think about a tribe of a million people accusing another tribe of two million people of doing wrong, so they fight. The winner



EAGER TO LEARN — A class at the Sultan Raiza School is typical of the conditions in which students in Afghanistan attend school. With no desks, chairs, windows, or electricity, they are still eager students but the recent mass killings by a U.S. soldier are raising concerns about the safety of Christian workers in the war-torn country. (BP photo)

was right. The loser was wrong. That's the law of the land," he says.

It's just another reason why prayer is so desperately needed, Hughes says. Rather than react with pessimism or negative attitudes based on stereotypes, American Christians must pray that Christ will soften Afghans' hearts and break the cycle of violence.

These are people God loves, Hughes says. "We are terrible at making generalities and characterizations of folks. All Americans are not Christians. All Muslims are not terrorists... and if we are not willing to meet people and understand them, how do we have any right to condemn them? Some of my closest friends that I trust — literally — with my life every night are Muslims."

"Christ didn't spend all His time with believers. He spent more time with nonbelievers. We need to get off of the church pew... and become more concerned about the lost in the world than our own comfort."

Among prayer requests for Afghanistan relayed by Hughes and other workers:

- Pray for God's mercy and justice for the families of the Afghans killed in the shootings.
- Ask God to quiet rising anger and prevent this incident from sparking further violence.
- Pray for an end to conflict in Afghanistan. Ask God to bring peace and unity between feuding ethnic groups and tribes as well as peace between Afghanistan and other nations.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

'Wrongful birth' jury award debated by ethicists

WASHINGTON (BP) — A "wrongful birth" lawsuit is a horribly flawed response to the unexpected birth of a baby with a disability, pro-life bioethics specialists said in the wake of an Oregon jury's award of nearly three million dollars to the parents of a child with Down syndrome. The 12-member jury unanimously awarded \$2.9 million to Ariel and Deborah Levy, a Portland-area couple, in their suit against a hospital system that failed to detect the chromosomal disorder in their unborn daughter, Kalanit, who is now four. The Levys said they would have aborted her had they known she had Down syndrome, but Legacy Health System's Center for Maternal-Fetal Medicine assured them after a test their daughter did not have the condition. "In a civil society, there must be better remedies for cases like these," said C. Ben Mitchell, professor of moral philosophy at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. "Rather than 'wrongful birth' suits, a robust social services

infrastructure could relieve the burden families feel when they choose to bring disabled children into the world. There are many communities who would be willing to rally around these families if they knew the need. At the same time, we must repudiate abortion for disability," said Mitchell, also a biomedical and life issues consultant for the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "The diagnosis of a disability, including Down syndrome, should not be a death sentence for the unborn baby." Such lawsuits "are merely the newest front in the ongoing eugenic search-and-destroy mission aimed at wiping people with Down syndrome off the face of the earth," Wesley Smith wrote in a column for The Daily Caller. "The time has come to reverse course," said Smith, co-director of the Discovery Institute's Center for Human Exceptionalism. "We could begin with states prohibiting wrongful birth lawsuits as a matter of public policy. We may

have a right to have a baby, but we don't — or at least shouldn't — have a right to the baby we want. Most importantly, none of us should ever be declared by a jury to be a wrongful life. May Kalanit never learn that her parents would have prevented her from ever being born." Bioethicist Art Kaplan, who is

not a pro-life advocate, also contended "wrongful birth" lawsuits should not be allowed. "Wrongful birth lawsuits are a horrible way to deal with failed prenatal testing," said Caplan, director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, in a MSNBC commentary.

Looking back

10 years ago

The Senate Judiciary Committee rejects the nomination of U.S. District Judge Charles Pickering of Laurel to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. Pickering is a former two-term president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

20 years ago

W.A. Criswell, pastor, First Church, Dallas, declares that the Baptists have overcome liberals. Speaking in Saks, Ala., Criswell says, "The liberals are now a very small minority. Fundamentalists finally succeeded in purging liberals from positions of power in the Southern Baptist Convention."

50 years ago

The Endowment Fund of Clarke Memorial College is increased by approximately \$55,000 when Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cockrell of Tupelo deed the Baptist junior college in New on a commercial building located in Grenada.

BIBLIOCIPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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XYE WIRCBRIY, CBXC
CBIDMOB CBZN QXY
ZN LIRXABRE MYCD
HDM CBR
VDIOZPRYRNN DV
NZYN.
XACN CBZICRRY:
CBZICH-RZOBC

Clue: O = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Three Sixteen

AN UNDESERVED DEATH

It is impossible to understand the church, incomplete to try to understand Jesus' teachings and actions, and insignificant to see Him as a religious leader apart from His death on the cross. While many would like to just follow His teachings and to live a good life and while He is absolutely the ultimate example of righteousness and obedience to the will of God, all of that becomes meaningless if He did not die for our sins. In the early pages of history when the first man and woman were faced with a choice, they did as we do and chose to disobey God. They sinned! While that may seem insignificant to some people all you need to do is to look around you and see the awful impact of sin in us, around us, and everywhere it touches it does harm. Sin has deep rooted and far reaching tentacles. It ruins us and our relationships. It ruins our understanding of each other and it separates us from God. It skews our thinking. It spoils our dispositions. Sin is a terrible thing.

Sin is disobeying God and not doing what He wants us to do. It is doing what He doesn't want us to do. Sometimes it crouches itself in our minds and in our hearts. It affects everything that we see, the things that we do, and the things that we think. I am confident that I can safely say that not one of us has been unaffected by the sins of others around us. It hurts and it leaves us in despair. I would quickly add that those around us have probably been hurt numerous times by our wrong doing. It creates shockwaves of despair and disillusionment. In our culture we try to manage, corral, and keep sin in check. Billions of dollars are spent on security, law enforcement, armies, prisons, and counseling to ward off the results of our doing the wrong things, saying the improper things, and being the wrong kind of people because we are sinners. Yet all of those things done and it is impossible to eradicate sin at its core in our lives. God knew that and He sent His Son, Jesus, to pay our sin debt on the cross.

March 25, two weeks prior to Easter, churches all across Mississippi are going to be focused on the death of Jesus. In song, in sermon, in testimony, and in teaching the proclamation of the death of Jesus will resonate across our land. If you and I were to take that journey to Jerusalem and go back in time somewhere around 30 A.D. out there on the edge of the city we would see, not one but three crosses where three individuals were crucified. There is a sense in which



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

there were not just three, but it was all of us. Examine the crosses closely and you will find not only yourself but a mirror of every one of us.

The cross of redemption is that center cross where Jesus hangs. Following the supper, the denial, the betrayal, the trial, and the journey to Calvary surrounded by the jeering mobs, Jesus is hung on the cross to die. For six hours He suffered all of the anguish, the uncertainty, the scorn, and the punishment of our sins. Did you ever do something wrong? Well, we all know the answer to that. Maybe a better question to ask is did you ever get caught having done something wrong? Do you remember what that felt like? Do you remember the ramifications of that? Do you remember being concerned about the punishment that was coming and/or others finding out? Sin has dozens of ways to inflict hurt upon us, in us, and around us.

When Jesus died upon the cross, He took all of our sins. He died for the sins of the world. He took our punishment, our pain, our loneliness, our alienation, our brokenness and He paid our sin debt. He paid for it all. While hanging on the cross Jesus said, "It is finished." His words could be translated paid in full.

While it may be difficult to find someone who would do that for you, the greater problem is that no one else could do that for you except Jesus. Thanks be to God for His incredible love and the enormity of His sacrifice so that we might be set free.

Look again and you will see on one side of Jesus hangs a man and there is the cross of rejection. A man is dying in his sins and for his sins. The punishment inflicted by a social structure that says you cannot live in violence, hatred, and insurrection had finally caught up with him. But a much bigger issue was at stake. For there just an arm's length away from him is God's provision for him to be saved. In his final breaths on his final day, he rejects the Lord Jesus. Facing his own death, he rejects the life of God. Life was so close but because of his hard heart, it was so far away. You may be in that condition and the fact is that no one can make you trust Jesus. It is your deci-

sion as it was his. Jesus loves you, longs to save you, and waits for you to turn from your sins to Him so that He can give you life.

There is a third cross on that hill. A man on the other side of Jesus is dying but this is the cross of rejection. No one had to explain to him that he had made wrong decisions and messed his life up royally. He was in the midst of feeling the pain of being caught, the shame of wrong doing, and the utter despair of hopelessness about the future. But just at his side is God's Son, the hope of all mankind. Even on

the last day of his life he came to understand the love of our Lord. You know His words. "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom" (Luke 23:42). During His ministry Jesus had said, "All that the Father gives me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). On this day, He did what He had promised and He gave freedom and everlasting life to a dying man.

This Sunday, March 25, all across our state preachers will be Telling the Story of Jesus with urgency and clarity to a world that desperately needs hope and to a world that needs Jesus. Pray for your pastor or the one who is going to be preaching. Encourage someone to go with you who needs to hear of the marvelous grace and love poured out for them on Calvary.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.



Celebrating great nurses.

Baptist Memorial Health Care congratulates all the 2012 Mississippi Nursing Association's Nightingale Award recipients. We are especially proud of the nominees from our own hospitals across the state. All of you continue to build on a century of care.

Cynthia Adkins	Amanda Ivy
Bridgett Alexander	Cassie McCutchen
Erin Algee	David Russell
Lisa Bailey	Tina Stryder
Teresa Bhatt	Yvonne Thompson
Kristina Collier	Mary Townsend-Gervis
Leigh Cromwell	Aminda White
Marilyn Culver	Lindsay Wynne
Cindy Eldred	Angela Young
Mary Foley	
Rosie Goolsby	
Hannah Howard	



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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 22, 2012

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

LIFE COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Choose a time to focus attention on God's calling to vocational ministry and the need for all believers to find their place of leadership in His work. Suggested emphasis date: April 15

Contact Alan Woodward for more information,
601-292-3308 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 308.
Pastor/Leadership Development Dept., MBCB

MINISTERS OF EDUCATION LEADER LAB

(PLEASE BRING YOUR PASTOR WITH YOU)

Monday
May 21, 2012

9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. (lunch provided)
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center, Clinton

How are your mentoring skills?
Who are you intentionally discipling?

How would you like to hear from a couple who have been effectively mentoring and discipling business and church leaders for more than two decades...successfully?

Ron and Della Proctor have been effective leaders on church-staff and with Campus Crusade for Christ. You will be blessed to hear them present "Mentoring One2One" and share how God has used them to build multiplying disciples for His Kingdom.



Mentoring One2One will equip you to carry out Jesus' Great Commission given to us in Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."

To register, go to mbcb.org/Events/Sunday_School/ME_Leader_Lab to download a form, or contact Carolyn Day, phone: 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291, or 601-292-3291 (locally); e-mail: cday@mbcb.org.

Grandparent Day Retreat

For Grandparents and Grandchildren
(Children ages 6 - 15)

Saturday, April 28
From 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Central Hills Baptist Retreat
6377 Attala Road 4227 West MS 39192

For more information: 662-289-9730

MISSISSIPPI BSU Adopt a Summer Missionary

deadline: May 15, 2012

Your church can help support Mississippi college and university student summer missionaries in the work that God has called them to do this year. Some specific ways you can help:



Pray — these students need your daily prayers as they serve.



Provide — provide small things they may need while they serve on the field. Some ideas of what to include in a care package: Wal-mart gift cards; small toiletry items; notes of encouragement to open throughout the summer; supplies they may need for ministry.

If your church would like to adopt a Mississippi BSU summer missionary, go to our Web site, www.missionsnow.net, choose "Churches" and "Adopt a Missionary" to complete the form online.

Contact Peggy Powell in the Collegiate Ministry Department with questions — 601-292-3299.

VISIT -A- CAMPUS

Going to college this fall?

Have you considered calling
the Baptist Student Union?

We would like to be your first stop in helping you find
your way around!

- Meet the BSU director
- Get helpful general information
about the campus
- Learn about BSU
opportunities when
you arrive

For contact info about
the campus you plan
to attend, go to our
website:

www.mbc.org/BSU

Collegiate Ministry
601.292.3299
800.607.2736



MISSISSIPPI WMU LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2012

August 9 — Church Missions Leadership Training
FBC, Starkville, Golden Triangle Association

August 17-18 — Annual Missions Celebration, featuring
• WMU Annual Meeting
• Associational Missions Leadership Training
• Church Missions Leadership Training
at Garaywa Camp & Conference Center in Clinton

August 23 — Church Missions Leadership
Training
Clarksdale Baptist Church

August 30 — Church Missions Leadership
Training
FBC, Gulfport
Gulf Coast Association

celebrate
the Story

MBCB Student Connect Camps 2012

3 Camps to Choose from

Session I:
June 4-7
Central Hills
Baptist Retreat

Speaker:
Gary Farmer

Session II:
June 7-10
Central Hills Baptist
Retreat

Speaker:
Gary Farmer

Session III:
June 11-14
Blue Mountain
College

Speaker:
Kevin Cooper

For more information contact Rene Edwards at
601-292-3283 or redwards@mbcb.org, or contact Ken Hall at 601-292-3285 or khall@mbcb.org



VBS Church Leadership Training

6:30 - 9 p.m.

CONFERENCES

- Preschool and Children
- Pastors and General Officers
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April 10, 2012
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FBC Wiggins, Wiggins, MS

April 12, 2012
FBC Eupora, Eupora, MS
North Oxford BC, Oxford, MS

April 17, 2012
Liberty BC, Liberty, MS
FBC Grenada, Grenada, MS

For more information contact Angie Boydston at
aboystun@mbcb.org or
Carolyn Day at cday@mbcb.org
or call 1-800-748-1451, ext. 291, or 601-292-3291

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P.O. Box 850, Jackson 39205-0850

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ANNOUNCING NEW DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 20
COLISEUM, JACKSON • 6:30 P.M.

Youth Night 2012

Speakers
Stuart Hall

MUSIC
Kristian Stanfill

PEACE LOVE & JOY

**Mississippi Baptist
State Ministry Assistants
Conference
April 16-17, 2012**

The conference full of invaluable training, equipping, and fellowship for Mississippi ministry assistants returns this year to Garaywa Camp & Conference Center in Clinton. For more information, or to register, contact Cathy Taylor, ministry assistant, Pastor/Leadership Development Dept., at 601-292-3305 or cwtaylor@mbcb.org.

2012 National Missionary Parents Fellowship Retreat

**Mississippi
Missionary
Fellowship
April 21, 2012**

at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center
 Please register by Friday, April 13, 2012.

Download the registration form by going to mbcb.org, clicking "Events," "WMU," and selecting the MMF event. Contact Alicia, at 601-924-7034 or adungan@garaywa.org, for more information.

April 27-29, 2012
 Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center
 Talladega, Alabama

Program guests include:

Terri Willis
 IMB National Relations
 Office director
 IMB missionaries
 Tom Ellis
 IMB president

2012

PREACHING CONFERENCE

2012 Senior Adult Day Retreats

FBC, Batesville
 May 29
 Preacher
 Mickey Dalrymple
 Brandon

FBC, McComb
 May 22
 Preacher
 Wayne VanHorn, MC

15th Ave. BC, Meridian
 May 24
 Preacher
 Chuck Kelley
 President of NOBTS

Breakout Sessions to include:

Shaping Up to Share, Fun Time Sharing the Good News, Grandparent Bible Storytelling, New Beginnings in the Senior Years, Teaching the Story of Jesus from the Psalms, Choir, Gatherings

Cost: \$5 at the door or one week before the registration date to receive the gift bag. Mail Registration To: MBCB Conference Office, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205 or call 800-748-1651, ext. 216

First Baptist Church, Batesville

First Baptist Church, Starkville

First Baptist Church, Newton

Register online at: www.mbcb.org/pr2012
 For more information call:
 (601) 292-3305 or
 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305
 or e-mail: cwtaylor@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

March 23 – April 5, 2012

"Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him."

James 1:5

Pray for: **Burton* and Margaret Schmitz**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Senegal through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **George and Geraldine* Smith**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Uganda through church planting, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for a team of six from **Rankin BA** traveling to East Asia to minister through ESL, March 27 – April 6.

Pray for: **Janna Smith***, IMB missionary ministering to American Peoples in Mexico through church planting.

Pray for: **Thomas Smith***, IMB missionary ministering to American Peoples in Peru by providing regional office support.

Pray for a volunteer from **Neshoba BA** traveling to East Asia to minister through sports missions, March 30 – April 9.

Pray for: **Lane Vance***, IMB missionary ministering to European Peoples in France through evangelism.

Pray for: **David* and Regina* White**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the United States through church planting, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **Floyd and Sylvia* Wingo**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **Paul and Donna* Worsham**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Mexico through church planting, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **Arnold* and Margie* Austin**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Peru through community, church and home outreach and encounter evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard and Martha* Beal**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach and serving through financial administration.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

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Looking for missions opportunities in Mississippi?

Sign up to become an On Call Missions Volunteer and receive e-mail notices about opportunities and needs in our state.

Need missions volunteers to help you?

Send a request for help to the state WMU office.

You can sign up to volunteer or request volunteers through the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Web site.

Go to www.mbc.org/mission_strategy/wmu and scroll to missions opportunities. Look under missions involvement/projects.

You can also e-mail Tammy Anderson, tanderson@mbcb.org, or call Mississippi WMU at 800-748-1651, ext. 317, and request an On Call Missions brochure.



HOUSE TOPS

1. A Mississippi College interior design major from Olive Branch, Kristen Millican will receive a major award from Cooper Lighting in this year's national competition. It's the second year in a row that an MC interior design student is receiving an award of recognition. Austin Gauley of Owensboro, Kentucky was the recipient of the same honor in May 2011 in Philadelphia, Pa.



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MS POSITIONS

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SUMRALL, MS, IS SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR. Mail resumes to FBC Pastor Search Committee, 169 Center Ave., Sumrall, Ms. 39482 or E-mail to then-derson7@bellsouth.net.

UNION HALL BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR. Resumes may be mailed to the church at: 1242 Nola Road N. E., Brookhaven, MS 39601 Attention: Youth Director Search Committee.

HARRISBURG BAPTIST CHURCH, TUPELO, MS, IS SEEKING A MINISTER TO STUDENTS. Please send resumes to Harrisburg Baptist Church, c/o MTS Search Committee, 4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd., Tupelo, MS 38801. Any questions, please e-mail tim.roberts@bbs.com

GALILEE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, GLOSTER, MS, IS SEEKING A PASTOR. Please send resume to Galilee First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 118, Gloster, Ms., 39638. Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

Nominees sought to fill MBC 2013 posts

The 2012 Committee on Nominations approved by the messengers of the 176th Mississippi Baptist Convention will soon begin reviewing the trustee/board member positions on the boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) to serve in 2013. According to Gordon Sansing, committee chairman and member of First Church, Brandon, there will be a limited number of vacancies to be filled on the following boards and commissions:

- Baptist Children's Village
- Baptist Health Systems, Inc. (Jackson)
- Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis)
- Board of Ministerial Education
- Education Commission
- Historical Commission
- Blue Mountain College
- Mississippi College
- William Carey University

- Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, Inc.
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
- Mississippi Baptist Foundation

The Committee on Nominations will work with the heads of the institutions and agencies to bring a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers of the 177th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 30-31 at First Church, Jackson.

Nomination forms are available from Executive Administration - Brenda Box, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: bbbox@mbcb.org. Telephone: (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201.

Completed forms should be mailed to the Committee on Nominations, Executive Administration at the above address to be received no later than May 1.

First Baptist Church

Chandler, Arizona

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For Additional Information Contact
Tom Daniel
800.748.8877
tdaniel@rivesleavell.com

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Double Springs Church, Maben:** Revival, Apr. 1 - 4. Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; James Garner, speaker; Angie Turner, music.
2. **Calvary Church, Durant:** 50th anniversary and homecoming, Apr. 1, 11 a.m., followed by a covered dish lunch; Harold Schmidt, speaker.

er; Dewayne Kelsey, interim.

3. **Ogden Church, Bentonia:** Revival, Mar. 25 - 28; Sun., Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; church-wide fellowship following Wed. services; Mark Yeatman, Rob Futral, and Josh Braddy, speakers.

4. **Kreole Ave. Church, Moss Point:** Revival, Mar. 23 - 25; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10:45 a.m., followed by fellowship meal and 6 p.m.; Ben Carlisle, speaker.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MT. OLIVE, AL, IS SEEKING FULL-TIME PASTOR. Master of Divinity preferred; 5-10 years experience as Pastor at a Southern Baptist Church. Mail resumes to: Pastor Search Committee First Baptist Church of Mt. Olive 3200 Mt. Olive Road Mt. Olive, AL 35117 OR e-mail to: sheila@fbcmo.org

MULBERRY BC (HOUMA, LA) IS LOOKING FOR A MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP. Send resumes to info@mulberrychurch.org
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NEW ENGLAND FALL FOLIAGE TOUR. October 3-13, 2012. Tour offered through International Tours of Clinton, Bro. Barry Worrell of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada will serve as Group Leader. Cost \$2395 round trip. For informational flyer or questions call Bro. Barry Worrell 662-226-5316.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

JANUARY 2012

HONORS

Perry & Patsy Atherton
Bill & Karen Peters
Sue Davis Cooper
Peggy L. Palmer
Jere & Jennifer Daniels
Mike Daniels
Irene Lancaster
E. Crossley SSC, FBC
Columbus
Balfour & Mary Elizabeth
Lipscomb
Spunk & Linda Brock
Mr. Rhyne Neubert
Beacon SSC, FBC
Jackson
Gwendell & Glenna Pearson
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Grisham
Sr.
Elizabeth Tullos
Mrs. Jar...tte W. Dalton

MEMORIALS

Mother of Charlotte Armstrong
Mrs. Jerrie S. Foote
Pat Alexander
David & Jo Ellen Doss
Billy Olen Allen Sr.
Glen & Donna King
Carla Anderson
Jim & Pat Callender
Steven Anderson
Mrs. Sue Germany &
Family
Ms. Marilyn Laird
Billy & Reba Miller
Jack Armistead
Ms. Marilyn Laird
Carla Armstrong
Ms. Marilyn Laird
Melvin Roger Arnold Jr.
Arnold McCaffrey SSC,
FBC Summit
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Curtis & Kaye Buchanan
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Laura Carson
James & Maudie Dixon
Mrs. Reba Ulm
Paula Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R.
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Ernest & Elizabeth Childs
Jean & Glynn Jones
Mr. J. E. Chrestman
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Larry Churchwell
Jack & Annie Lee
Churchwell
Nicole Cochran
Randy B. & Linda S.
Eaves
Caleb Eli Coleman
Hathorn BC
Oakvale BC
Society Hill BC
Berwick & Peggy
Ostheimer
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Trinity BC, Vicksburg
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Paul & Linda Albritton
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Dalton Cox
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Danny Crawley
Ms. Marilyn Laird
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Randy & Karen Tabb
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Ms. Anne Wood
Mrs. Willie Mae Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Newsom
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Stanton BC, Natchez
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Mr. Maxey Parish
Ronald Denson
Mrs. Jean S. Moss &
Family

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Earl, Brenda, & Hunter
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Betty Jo Dotson
Jeanette & Charles
Young
Mrs. Ruby Dowdy
Don & Margaret
Sherwood
Margaret Williams
Rose Mary Durham
Ms. Margaret H.
Durham
Mrs. Eloise Edwards
Leake Academy Elem
Teachers
Mr. Eudell Evans
Danny & Gwen Daves
Denton (Bill) Everett
Phillip & Era Lee Hilton
Mrs. Laura Feaker
Fidelis SSC, Morrison
Heights BC
Ms. Moselle Felter
Union BC, Crosby
Mrs. Edith Fife
Lucy Keene SSC, New
Prospect BC
Lois Fortenberry
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Haddox
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Glen & Donna King
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Mrs. Effie Jean Green
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Larry Jenkins
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DECEMBER 6 — 31, 2011

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Churchwell
Josie Wallace
Mr. & Mrs. Virgil
Calcutt
Governor William L. Waller
Jess & Janet Dickinson
Mr. Elgin Kelloy Walley
Challenger's SSC,
Macedonia BC
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Mr. & Mrs. Greg L.
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T. K. Ware
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Dorcas-Ruth SSC, Bogue
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Mount Pleasant BC
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Wilkinson
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Beck
Shed Bell Jr.
Randy & Karen Tabb
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Earl Blaine
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Ms. Margaret T. Quinn
Grady "Pete" Browning
Bennett's SSC, N Oxford
BC
Ruth Brumfield
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Mr. & Mrs. Lester
Haddox
Mrs. Helen Butler
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Virginia & Jimmy Bynum
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth E.
Lee

BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

I Thank You

Psalm 107:1-9, 33-38, 43

By Betty Davis

"God is great, God is good, Let us thank Him for our food. Amen!" I can still remember watching two year old Landon saying the blessing. He put his hands together in front of his chin, closed his eyes, and in a cute "sing-songy" voice, thanked God for our food. The amen was always emphatically stated with an exclamation point! We probably all began thanking God the same way. But, do we still remember to thank Him for everything today?

Invitation To Give Thanks

Psalm 107:1-3

Verse one is a strong statement encouraging the congregation to thank the Lord for his kindness and goodness to us. Then, goes on to add that those who have been redeemed (set

free from their sins) should be glad to tell others. The "others" refers to people from all over the world. At times, adults struggle to thank God when their circumstances aren't going well. They certainly don't feel compelled to share about being thankful. God's unchanging goodness is one of the most fundamental truths about Him. He is good all the time, and we should be happy to tell others what He has done.

Reasons To Give Thanks

Psalm 107:4-9

The Israelites wandered in the desert for a long time. They felt unsettled and soon became discouraged. Daily needs for food and water in a dry country caused them to want to give up the struggles. Then, during their suffering, they remem-



Davis

bered to ask God for help. As always, He led them on the next portion of their journey. Would you say they had reasons to be thankful? We do, too.

A good way to begin would be to write all your blessings on a sheet of paper. I've done that many times and always needed more paper. God loves us so much. He cares for us even when we forget to thank Him. Thoughtful members in our church often hand us a container of fresh vegetables and fruits from their gardens. Some give other gifts, call us, or buy a meal for us. A jar of jelly, or a baked cake says to us, "We love and thank you for what you do to lead our church". We are always humbled by their thoughtfulness. It may be an outdated response, but we send a note with our sincere thanks. We also thank God for giving us sweet friends. Ever sing this little chorus? "Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul; Thank you Lord, for making me whole;

Thank you, Lord, for giving to me, Thy great salvation so rich and free." (Master Chorus Book) Those are the very best reasons to thank God!

Response Of The Thankful

Psalm 107:33-38, 43

God took good care of the wilderness wanderers. But, sometimes, they felt frustrated with their troubles. (vv26-27) Again, God provided for the needy and punished their oppressors. (Layman's Bible Book Commentary) Verse forty-three brought to my mind the story of when Jesus went through Samaria on His way to Jerusalem. As he entered a village, ten lepers stood far from the road. They called and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us". When Jesus saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." They went to obey. Only one man, when he realized he was clean, turned back and shouted, glorifying God. He fell down at Jesus' feet and gave him thanks. Jesus asked, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Only this stranger returned to give

glory to God". Arise and go on your way. Your faith has made you whole". (Luke 17:11-19) The question is: Would we have returned to thank Jesus for a miraculous healing?

Pilgrim families left England in September 1620, and landed in Plymouth two months later. The reason they left their old country was so they could pray and worship the way they wanted. The sandy beach in America had nothing to offer them for shelter or replenishing their supplies. They trusted God to take care of them. Local Native Americans were one answer from God. They shared where to hunt and fish, how to find local berries, and made friends with the children. They learned that working together helped them all. In the Fall, they celebrated a meal together, thanking God for His goodness to them. We observe a special day every November as a legal holiday for public thanksgiving to God. A response of the thankful.

Davis is a member of Fellowship Church, Meridian.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Christianity 101: Accept Others

Luke 4:31-6:11

By Kelly Mitchell

My family has a Great Pyrenees, a great hulk of a dog with massively long hair and a drooling problem. Even in the winter Moses will dig a mud hole to lay down in and cool off. A Sham Wow does not hold the liquid that a Mo can. He also has a habit of shaking mightily to fix his hairdo after someone pats him on the head. Never pat a Mo when you prefer your clothes without mud and slobber. In this week's lesson, we learn what Jesus does when He encounters someone that needs love but also carries the danger that something nasty might fling off and stick to you.

According to Matthew 4:13 and Mark 2:1, Jesus lived in Capernaum. He also con-

ducted most of His ministry in the region of Galilee where Capernaum is located. For our purpose, think of Galilee as the Old West. The only real Roman presence there is a detachment of soldiers much like a cavalry outpost. Like all frontiers, this one attracts adventurers but it also attracts criminals, outlaws, and radicals looking to disappear. It is a harsh and dangerous place with few comforts, yet, the prophecy was that this is where the Messiah would appear. Why would God place His Son in Galilee?

For one, Jesus is needed in Galilee, Luke 4:31-34. Jesus finds this man not on the streets but in the synagogue. The man is disruptive and annoying, calling out at inap-



Mitchell

propriate times with inappropriate comments. He is still in the synagogue only because it is too much trouble to remove him. By the Jewish mindset, physically touching the man, even on accident, made you spiritually unclean and you would have to leave the synagogue and the city until the proper cleansing could be completed. Besides, what could they do for this man? They had no cure for his trouble but it is in such hopelessness that Jesus is able to prove He is God.

Second, where there is need, Jesus offers hope, Luke 4:35-37. Notice the man's complaint and criticism. He protests that he does not want or need Jesus' help. He protests that he wants to be left alone but Jesus knows the heart. The man's decision is not an informed one and is again his own health.

We are all in danger of closing our minds and hearts to

offensive people. If we are not very careful we can even develop a smug pride, honoring their wishes to spite them. Do you think God will buy that argument on judgement day? "You can't blame me God, I tried..." He called me names and told me to leave him alone. I only did as he asked..." (see Matthew 5:29) This does not promote kidnapping or forcing the Gospel. For one, that is illegal. (see Romans 13:1-7) Second, it is not what Jesus did. Jesus rebuked the sin and its source rather than the person. He focused on the need and not the threat. Perhaps if we are more of Jesus' mindset, more people would be willing to listen?

Third, there is room for all, even in Galilee. Luke 5:12. Galilee was a melting pot. People of all ethnicities, cultures and religions resided there. In a region where everyone is different, people will still find a way to label an outcast. The outcast Jesus encounters here has a visible

skin disease. Jews were not the only ones that would avoid this man. Such a man might be contagious. His sin might rub off on us. Any person would avoid him. Jesus, however, not only embraced the ones the Jews rejected, He embraces the ones we reject as well.

Finally, He is willing. Luke 5:13-16. None are exempt, any that call on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Acts 2:21) Thankfully, our job is not to convince anyone of their sin, Jesus does that. We are to make the introduction. We are to point out His presence wherever we find Him. However, we cannot point to Him if we cannot see Him.

Class discussion: Based on this lesson, where would Jesus make His home in your community? Where would He go to minister? Are you going where He is to find Him or waiting on Him to come where we are? Read John 5:19-20 to prepare.

Mitchell is pastor of Main Street Church, Goodman.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

THE BAPTIST Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

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Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Liberty Hill Church, Pope



2. Sylwarena Church, Wesson

1. Liberty Hill Church, Pope, was recently represented by their S.T.A.R.S. puppet ministry team that performed at the North Mississippi Sportsman's Extravaganza, Batesville. Shown are the participants.

2. The WMU of Sylwarena Church, Wesson, hosted a ladies night out banquet and made baskets for nursing home patients. Shown, from left, are Anita Williams, Joy Westbrooks, Deemie Letchworth, Janet Kelly, Kim Shelton, Dixie Thornton, and Marilyn Britt.

3. First Church, Plantersville, held its 7th annual Community Free Day. Eighteen volunteers registered 32 families, with 123 being reached in the

community. After hearing the plan of salvation, everyone was able to shop for electronics, household items, clothes, dishes, and furniture. Shown are the volunteers.

4. Friendship Church, Aberdeen, will host the Landmark Quartet in concert Mar. 25, 6 p.m.



3. First Church, Plantersville



5. Union Church, Seminary

5. The WMU of Union Church, Seminary, honored their widows and widowers with a Valentine luncheon Feb. 11. Shown are the participants.

6. Corinth Church, Heidelberg, is having an Easter sunrise service Apr. 8, 6 a.m., with the choir singing Jesus, the One and Only.

7. Country Woods Church, Byram, is sponsoring Underground Church Apr. 13, 6:30 p.m. - midnight. For more information, call (601) 371-7955 or visit www.countrywoods.net.

Christian Life Convention A Time to Seek the Lord March 29-31

MINISTRY TEAM



Dr. David Olford



Dr. Fred H. Wolfe



Dr. Al Whittinghall

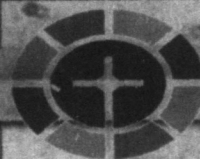


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Some One Cares conference

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